

# **2022 Kentucky Financial Services Advocate of the Year**

## **Who is eligible to be nominated?**

This award will be presented to an individual who assists small businesses through advocacy and other efforts to increase the usefulness and availability of financial literacy or financial services for small businesses, as well as those who assist entrepreneurs in obtaining small business financing in Kentucky.

For example, nominees may demonstrate creativity by using, promoting, or combining various loan programs and services, including those available through the SBA, to assist small businesses in starting their businesses or in obtaining financing for business expansion.

This person may actively advocate for changes in the financial services industry by supporting legislative and regulatory actions to assist and help the small business community. Nominees may or may not be small business owners.

Nominees must also be residents of and employed in Kentucky and will be subject to background checks. Small businesses owned and operated by nominees must comply with federal civil rights laws.

## **Who is NOT eligible to be nominated for this award?**

1. Individuals and/or organizations that have received the Kentucky Financial Services Advocate of the Year Award within the past three years.
2. Elected officials.
3. Individuals or firms currently suspended or debarred by the Federal government.

## **What are the evaluation/selection criteria for the Kentucky Financial Services Advocate of the Year?**

In evaluating the nomination packages, the judges will look at the following criteria:

1. Encourage the flow of investment capital to small firms.
2. Demonstrated accomplishments over the last three (3) years to supporting the growth and expansion of small businesses through financial services activities (as measured by job creation or retention, service to underserved markets, number of loans to small businesses, number of businesses started or expanded, number of clients served, access to business opportunities, etc.).
3. Longevity of sustained commitment to small businesses and entrepreneurship.
4. Measurable accomplishments in the quality and growth in the number of small business clients assisted through financial or technical assistance provided.

5. For participating SBA Lenders, nominees must have satisfactory OCRM Risk Ratings.
6. For SBA-approved Small Business Investment Companies, nominees must have a positive working relationship with SBA.
7. Success story examples, not to exceed three (3) stories. Include success stories with the application.

**Note:** Success stories should be in type 12 font, formatted in size 8 1/2" x 11 pages each, double spaced. Each story should be no longer than 2 pages in length, if printed.

8. Other achievements that exemplify the nominee's efforts to improve the health and vitality of Kentucky's small businesses.

**Note:** Financial information is not required for Kentucky Advocacy Awards.

**Who may submit nominations for this award?**

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in Kentucky, including, but not limited to, trade and professional associations and business organizations, may submit nominations. Individuals may not be nominated for more than one 2022 Small Business Week award.

Individuals may self-nominate.

**What information must the nomination package contain?**

Nominations must be in type 12 font, formatted in 8 1/2" x 11" size. Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.

All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will also include, in the following order:

1. A completed **SBA Form 3315** District Office Award Form, which is available at [www.sba.gov/ky](http://www.sba.gov/ky). Go to **Business Resources and News** on the home page, look under the **From Our Office** section and select the 2022 SBA Kentucky District Office Small Business Week Awards topic.

**Note:** For Questions 8 – 15 on this form, there is a limit of 200 words per question.

2. A completed background form (**SBA Form 3300**, Award Nomination Form), which is available on the SBA National Small Business Week Awards site, <https://www.sba.gov/nsbw>, and SBA district offices. The winner(s) for this award will also be required to sign an SBA Authorization Release form. The SBA Kentucky District Office will provide award winners with a copy of this form.

3. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages. The nominator is encouraged to copy and paste the evaluation/selection criteria and provide supporting information directly under each topic.
4. Additional supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages. Videos will not be considered.
5. An 8" x 10" or 5" x 7" digital photo of the nominee, at least 300 dpi (3-5 MB), is required. For team nominations, a group photo is acceptable.
6. Four to five additional photos of the nominee's company and, if applicable, employees at work.

**What is the deadline for nominations?**

All nominations must be emailed no later than 3:00 p.m. ET, January 11, 2022 to:  
**[SBA Kentucky 2022 Small Business Awards](#)**

**<https://sba.app.box.com/f/721dbf59445f41de8fe87344fdaa819f>**

Do not mail or deliver nominations to the Kentucky District Office.

Questions? Please contact [sharron.johnson@sba.gov](mailto:sharron.johnson@sba.gov).